

## COAL STRIKING GROUND

## NO HEADWAY IN CALLING OUT MEN

**The Markle Men Stand by Their Written Agreement and Refuse to Strike—The West End Men Continue to Hold Out—In**

The Lehigh and Schuylkill Regions. By increasing the Hours of Those Who Remain at Work, the Output Is Greater Than Menace—Mitchell's Efforts Fail to Get the Men Out Near Shenandoah—In Many Mines More Men Are at Work Than Any Day Since the Strike Began—Operators Planning to Resume Work in the Scranton Region.

HAZLETON, Pa., Sept. 20.—The attempt of Mr. Mitchell of Indiana, the strike leader, to force the 2,000 men of the Marikins mines at Jeddo to violate their long-standing agreement and refuse to arbitrate their differences with their employers resulted in worse than failure. There were more men at work at Jeddo to-day than on any day since the strike began. Furthermore, the indignation of the miners is more acute to-morrow than there was to-day. Practically all who have quit work at Jeddo

are men who live here in Hazelton or at a distance from the mines. The strikers not only have threatened them personally but have threatened their wives, telling them of dreadful things that would be done to them unless they quit work. These tactics had kept a number of non-union away from the mines. Others who were young and who had never been through a strike and rather wanted to see what one's life were also induced to quit.

Although the strike was over, the men of the Markle mine were out when Mr. Mitchell made his great play at the Japan schoolhouse meeting to turn the rest into line. The story of that meeting was told in THE SEN this morning.

Mr. Mitchell said last evening that he had the feeling that with him and the men this morning would demonstrate the strength of the union. He would address his employees after Mr. Mitchell's attempt to stampede the meeting, did not have much to say, but was quietly confident. Neither side attempted to belittle the importance of the meeting. Mr. Mitchell had made no concessions to the strikers.

remained steadfast to their employer and refused to recognize the United Mine Workers as it would be a serious blow to the strike as a whole. If, in the face of a written agreement to arbitrate all differences, which had been in effect for fifteen years, with the result that absolute harmony had existed between employer and employee—in spite of such an agreement that the group miners struck work at the behest of the local or labor actions foreign to the entire anthracite region was reasonable to suppose that all the other regions would be in the strike, which the resistance had made, in the Lehigh and Schuylkill region had made, would seem the way and that the paralysis of the entire anthracite region would be complete.

But there were other and broader reasons why the decision of the Jeddo miners was awaited with anxiety. As Father Phillips pointed out in his speech to the Jeddo miners at the Japan schoolhouse yesterday, if an agreement between employer and employees, as is the case that which existed between the Markles and their men, were deliberately repudiated then we might as well bid good-by to all hopes of arbitration for years to come. It would be one of the worst blows crassified

Egged on by the Mitchell strike bureau the Markle miners on Saturday last formulated a set of grievances and submitted them to Mr. Markle. According to the agreement the employers have ten days in which to consider their answer. In the event that the answer is not satisfactory to the miners then the arbitration clause of the contract comes in force. This ten days' time limit will expire on next

Tuesday. The last thing Mr. Markle said to his men yesterday was to wait until next and see what the government would do. His statement that he did not intend to arbitrate was true or not, but above all to think well what it would mean to them and to the entire labor cause if they violated their agreement.

This Japan schoolhouse meeting promises to be the turning point of the strike. It not only resulted in checking the undercurrent of union sentiment during the strike, but the strike leaders has succeeded in creating a new turning tide in the other direction. Nothing short of a riotous attack by an overwhelming number will drive the Markle miners from their work. Individuals who had quit because they were intimidated to-day applied for protection in going to and from the mines and said they would not quit the strike. They said they will get it and every indication points to the Markle miners being in operation at their full

As a general Mr. Mitchell displayed lamentable weakness in his handling of the Markle affair. His obvious policy was to have let that hornet's nest alone. He should have said: "Here, these men have arbitration of their grievances. They have just what we are after."

This would have placed the other operators at a disadvantage. Mitchell could have pointed to the Markles and said that he only asked for the men of his organization what the men of Jeddo had had for fifteen years. His advantage in position would have been immense and he threw away the chance of his life when he failed to take it.

There is everything to put Mitchell in a bad light in attempting to break up the happy conditions which existed among the Markle miners. They are notoriously the most contented, most prosperous and best cared for of any miners for ten miles around. Their homes are bright, clean and tidy. You often find organs and pianos in their parlors, and smart lace curtains at their windows. Their children as you see them come trooping home from school are as well clad, bright faced a crowd of youngsters as you will find in a day's journey.

BIG WAGES AFTER ALL BILLS ARE PAID.  
The Selkirk, Alberta, district.

The average of all the miners would be over \$50, irrespective of their store and other bills. They are at liberty to buy at the company

store or not; as they choose. They may have the company doctor or not, as they choose. The cost of the doctor for the single men is 50 cents a month, for a man and his family, 75 cents. If the miner gives an order in writing the firm will deduct from his pay the doctor's and the priest's fee. Otherwise he gets his own doctor and makes his own contribution to the church.

FREE TRAINED NURSES FOR MINERS' FAMILIES.  
Mrs. Markle has furthermore imported a corps of trained nurses from the city. If any of the miners or their families fall ill, these

best time to enjoy Lincoln Park Day? Apr. 2-4.